

"Being All That You Can Be."
John 15:1-17

"You brought us out of Egypt as if we were a vine and forced out the other nations and planted us in the land and hoped that we would have grown." Psalm 80:8

"I planted you as a special vine as a very good seed. How then did you turn into a vine that grows bad fruit?" Jeremiah 2:21

"How prosperous Israel is. A luxurious vine filled with fruit. But the more wealth I give her the more she pours it on the altars of the heathen gods." Hosea 10:1

Principle: God's desire is that you be all that you can be.

Four ways to be all that you can be:

1. Realize that you are the branch.

Principle: God is the gardener.

Principle: Jesus says I am the vine.

Principle: You are a branch.

Principle: A key to growth is don't try to be the gardener, don't try to be the vine. Be a branch.

2. Realize that you will be pruned.

Principle: Pruning is unavoidably necessary for fruit.

Principle: There is always a purpose behind the pruning of God.

Why does God prune us?

To direct us, to inspect us, to correct us, to protect us and to perfect us.

Principle: The Father has only one criterion for pruning – How can I get the most fruit out of this branch?

Principle: Pruning hurts!

Principle: Pruning takes time.

When you are being pruned remember four truths:

God sees everything you are going through. Regardless of the cause of your problem, God can use it in your life. He can change the situation. God wants to change you first.

3. I must abide in Christ.

Principle: The branch needs the vine all the time.

Principle: Apart from Jesus Christ you can't bear fruit in your life.

"Through Christ we can do all things." Philippians 4:13

"You're the salt of the earth. If you lose your salty taste you can't be made salty again. You're good for nothing except to be thrown out and walked on." Matthew 5:13

When you abide in Christ, Jesus said:

- My words abide in you (prayer and promise are always linked together in scripture).
- You abide in My love.
- You obey the way I obeyed God.
- My joy abides in you.

"Let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning at shame and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

"Be full of joy in the Lord always. Again I say it. Be full of joy." Philippians 4:4

4. Realize that you are a friend of God.